

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02958 221453Z

43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 NIC-01 SCCT-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10

AID-05 /087 W

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P R 221408Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2864

USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

FROM MAESTRONE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EG

SUBJECT: RIOTS AT MISR TEXTILE PLANT

1. WORKERS RIOTED AT MISR SPINNING AND WEAVING CO AT MEHALLA IN NILE DELTA MARCH 20 AND 21. PLANT IS REPUTED TO BE LARGEST AND MOST MODERN TEXTILE PLANT IN MIDDLE EAST AND AN EGYPTIAN SHOWPIECE. CAIRO PAPERS HEADLINED INCIDENT, AHARAM LABELLING IT "SABOTAGE OPERATION BY IRRESPONSIBLE MINORITY", WHILE GHOMHOURIYA HEADLINES "SUSPECTED ELEMENTS PROVOKING MEHALLA WORKERS". MININD MAHMOUD ALI HASSAN, MINMANPOWER SALEH GHARIB AND

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02958 221453Z

OTHER GOVT OFFICIALS WORKING THROUGH POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND

TRADE UNIONS FAILED TO BRING DEMONSTRATIONS TO A HALT. DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUED DURING TWO-DAY PERIOD DESPITE FACT GOVT HAD INDICATED READINESS TO MEET SOME DEMANDS WHICH WERE BEING MADE.

2. DEMONSTRATORS ATTACKED COMPANY CHAIRMAN AND OTHER COMPANY OFFICIALS WHO HAD SOUGHT TO BARGAIN WITH THEM. THEY CLOSED OFF EXIT AND ENTRY TO PLANT AND DID CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE. ALTHOUGH PLANT WAS SHUT DOWN AT EARLY STAGE TO PREVENT ANY DESTRUCTION, REPORTEDLY CONSIDERABLE INTRICATE SPINNING MACHINERY MAY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED. DEMONSTRATORS VANDALIZED FLATS OF COMPANY OFFICIALS. THEY SET FIRE TO TRUCKS LOADED WITH COTTON WITHIN COMPOUND WITH VIEW TO SPREADING FIRE THROUGHOUT PLANT. SECURITY FORCES FINALLY INTERVENED, OSTENSIBLY ACCORDING TO PRESS, TO PROTECT MAJORITY OF WORKERS WHO WERE NOT IN SYMPATHY WITH DEMONSTRATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS, RIOTERS CARRIED PLACARDS AND SHOUTED SLOGANS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED IN JAN 1 DEMONSTRATION IN CAIRO AND DEC 23 INCIDENT IN PORT SAID.

3. AFTERMATH ACCORDING TO PRESS HAS BEEN ONE KILLED, A NUMBER OF PERSONS INJURED (INCLUDING SOME SECURITY FORCE PERSONNEL), AND 25 PERSONS ARRESTED. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IS UNDERTAKING INVESTIGATION OF CAUSES OF INCIDENT.

4. ARAB SOCIALIST UNION ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING RIOTS WHICH IT SAYS "DO NOT STEM FROM THE LABOR MOVEMENT AND AIM AT STRIKING AT DOMESTIC FRONT IN INTERESTS OF ENEMY".

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PRESS SUGGESTS SUBVERSIVE MOTIVATION FOR RIOT, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT DEMONSTRATORS WERE PROTESTING AGAINST RISING COST OF LIVING AND DIFFICULT LIVING CONDITIONS PREVALENT IN EGYPT TODAY. GENERAL FOCUS OF GOVT IN RESPONDING TO SITUATION HAS BEEN TO POINT OUT RIOTS ARE WORK OF WILLFUL MINORITY OUT-OF-STEP WITH MAJORITY OF EGYPTIAN WORKS RATHER THAN ASCRIBING THE PROBLEM TO HIGH COST OF LIVING AND OTHER LEGITIMATE WORKERS' COMPLAINTS. DEMONSTRATIONS ARE DEPCITED AS CALCULATED ATTEMPT TO DAMAGE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY AT CRUCIAL STAGE IN MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND EGYPTIAN DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH RIOTS, INDEED, MAY BE WORK OF DETERMINED MINORITY, PROBLEMS OF HIGH COST OF LIVING FOR EGYPTIAN FACTORY WORKER, LOW SALARIES AND LIMITED WORKERS' LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 02958 221453Z

BENEFITS ARE CONDITIONS WHICH REMAIN VERY MUCH IN FOREFRONT OF WORKER CONCERNS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 22 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0267
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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05 JUL 2006

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